

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
18 January 2018

Original: English

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 8161st meeting of the Security Council, held on 18 January 2018, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Maintenance of international peace and security", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council reaffirms its primary responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as its commitment to uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter, including its commitment to and respect for the political independence, sovereign equality and territorial integrity of all States and the need for States to comply with their obligations under international law.

"The Security Council within its mandate to maintain international peace and security, notes the importance of continuing to strive towards sustainable peace and achieving a world free of violent conflicts by the United Nations Centenary, as well as managing shared challenges and opportunities along the way.

"The Security Council expresses concern over the growing number of conflicts in different geographic areas all over the globe, and underlines urgent need for redoubled efforts for their prevention and resolution, addressing where pertinent the regional dimensions of conflicts with specific emphasis on regional diplomacy and arrangements.

"The Security Council recalls that the parties to any dispute, the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, shall, first of all, seek a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means of their own choice, and urges such parties to settle their disputes by such means.

"The Security Council recalls its previous relevant resolutions and presidential statements addressing issues of preventive diplomacy, prevention of armed conflict, peacebuilding and sustaining peace, as well as mediation and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

"The Security Council recognizes that development, peace and security, and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

"The Security Council underlines the importance of promoting the United Nation's ability to deliver on its founding determination to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war and putting emphasis on conflict



prevention, preventive diplomacy, peacebuilding and sustaining peace, sharing best practices as well as formulating forward-looking recommendations and strategies on them in light of the increasingly transnational nature of the causes, consequences and contributing factors of conflict, including terrorism, armed group activities, proliferation of WMD, organized crime, illicit trafficking of conventional weapons, in particular small arms and light weapons.

"The Security Council underlines also that addressing conflicts may include, where and as appropriate, measures to rebuild trust by bringing together Member States around common goals to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.

"The Security Council stresses the necessity of addressing the root causes of conflicts and takes note of the proposals to research their implications to international peace and security in regional perspective, where appropriate.

"The Security Council recalls that the prevention of conflict remains a primary responsibility of States, and further recalling their primary responsibility to protect civilians and to respect and ensure the human rights of all individuals within their territory and subject to their jurisdiction, as provided for by relevant international law, further reaffirms the responsibility of each individual State to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity.

"The Security Council further recalls that a comprehensive conflict prevention strategy should include, inter alia, early warning, preventive deployment, mediation, peacekeeping, non-proliferation, accountability measures as well as post-conflict peacebuilding, and recognizes that these components are interdependent, complementary, and non-sequential.

"The Security Council reaffirms the primary responsibility of national governments and authorities in identifying, driving and directing priorities, strategies and activities for peacebuilding and sustaining peace, emphasizes that sustaining peace is a shared task and responsibility that needs to be fulfilled by the Government and all other national stakeholders, and in this regard, emphasizes that inclusivity is key to advancing national peacebuilding processes and objectives in order to ensure that the needs of all segments of society are taken into account, and stresses that civil society can play an important role in advancing efforts to sustain peace.

"The Security Council takes note of the Reports of the Secretary-General on conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy and looks forward to the Report of the Secretary-General on implementation of its Resolution S/RES/2282.

"The Security Council encourages the Secretary-General to continue enhancing the use of his good offices, dispatching Representatives, Special Envoys and mediators, to help to facilitate durable, inclusive and comprehensive settlements and further encourages the Secretary-General to continue his early engagement in the prevention of potential conflicts.

"The Security Council commends the Secretary-General for his efforts to enhance the performance of the Secretariat's peace and security pillar, takes note of the ongoing reform efforts within three areas (peace and security, development, and management) and looks forward to the results of the ongoing reviews.

"The Security Council encourages the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to:

- make the United Nations more coherent and integrated, effective and efficient;
- enhance the organization's ability to coherently support Member States' pacific settlements of disputes and their responses to the complex challenges faced by the contemporary world;
- ensure better use of conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy tools, where relevant, in cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations and other relevant actors, as mandated.

"The Security Council acknowledges the determined work to strengthen strategic cooperation and coordination among the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations that can play an important role in conflict prevention, and in this regard, encourages consideration of the need to:

- continuously support national governments and, where mandated, other relevant stakeholders;
- support the pacific settlement of local disputes through regional arrangements or by regional agencies in accordance with Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter;
- continue strengthening strategic dialogue, partnerships, more regular exchange of views, analyses and information at the working level to build national and regional capacities in relation to the preventive diplomacy tools;
- invigorate and engage potential and existing capacities and capabilities, particularly through United Nations regional political offices.
- contribute to the coherence and integration of their early warning, conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy efforts, *inter alia*, through mediation and the Secretary-General's Good Offices, as appropriate;

"The Security Council underscores the importance of peacebuilding, emphasizes the need for engaging and collaborating with regional actors in policy related and country-specific issues in the advice made by the Peacebuilding Commission and acknowledges the significant role of the Peacebuilding Commission and United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Offices, *inter alia*, in supporting national efforts to build and sustain peace, as well as addressing cross-border threats in accordance with existing mandates.

"The Security Council reaffirms the important role of women in peacebuilding, notes the substantial link between women's full and meaningful involvement in efforts to prevent, resolve and rebuild from conflict and those efforts' effectiveness and long-term sustainability, and stressing, in this regard, the importance of women's empowerment and equal participation in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security and the need to increase women's role and leadership in decision-making and with regard to conflict prevention and resolution and peacebuilding, including in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflict, the consideration of gender-related issues in all discussions pertinent to sustaining peace.

"The Security Council recognizes the important and positive contribution of youth in efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and further affirms the important role youth can play in the prevention and resolution

of conflicts and as a key aspect of the sustainability, inclusiveness and success of peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts.

“The Security Council remains convinced that the protection of children should be an important aspect of any comprehensive strategy to prevent and resolve conflict as well as to build and sustain peace and stresses also the importance of adopting a broad strategy of conflict prevention, which addresses the root causes of armed conflict in a comprehensive manner in order to enhance the protection of children on a long-term basis.

“The Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security underlines a profound need to focus on, *inter alia*:

- advancing further conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy tools, practices and efforts and ensure their most effective use;
- facilitating the Council’s consideration of prevention issues;
- streamlining the activities, enhancing and strengthening the role of its Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa.

“The Security Council reiterates that United Nations’ cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations is critical to contributing to the prevention of the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict, in line with Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter.

“The Security Council, for attaining sustainable peace, including through engagement on conflict prevention and peacebuilding, emphasizes the importance of, *inter alia*:

- creating potential for scrutinising closely complex, multifaceted and case-specific relationship of security and development, where appropriate;
- utilising revamped regional approach, where relevant;
- strengthening coordination within the UN to increase the effectiveness of assistance provided on the ground and ensure greater transparency.

“The Security Council encourages periodic update by the Secretary-General to the Council on the status of conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy efforts.”



Security Council

Distr.: General
19 January 2018

Original: English

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 8162nd meeting of the Security Council, held on 19 January 2018, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Maintenance of international peace and security", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council reaffirms its commitment to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Afghanistan and the Central Asian States.

"The Security Council expresses its continued support to the Secretary-General's call-to-action to avert threats in Afghanistan and Central Asia, encourages making conflict prevention and resolution central to the work of the UN system in the region while stressing the importance of preventive diplomacy, inter alia, through engaging constructively with Member States to ensure long-term stability, security and development.

"The Security Council recalls its Resolution 2344 (2017) and recognizes that there can be no purely military solution to Afghanistan, underlines the importance of an inclusive Afghan-led and -owned peace process for the long-term prosperity and stability of Afghanistan, and expresses its full support to the Government of Afghanistan to achieve peace and reconciliation, including through peace and security cooperation with the wider region, including the Central Asian states.

"The Security Council recognizes ongoing international efforts to advance peace and stability in Afghanistan and calls on all countries in the region and international community to renew their sincere efforts to achieve peace and reconciliation.

"The Security Council underscores the importance of continued progress on electoral reform and towards the holding of credible and inclusive parliamentary elections in 2018 and presidential elections in 2019. It commends efforts by UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and UNDP in support of this area and encourages them to intensify their support to the Afghan electoral management bodies.

"The Security Council reiterates its concern over the continuing threats to the security and stability of Afghanistan posed by the Taliban, including the Haqqani network, as well as by Al-Qaida, ISIL (Da'esh) affiliates and other terrorist groups, violent and extremist groups, illegal armed groups, criminals, and those involved in the production, trafficking or trade of illicit drugs; notes



in this regard the potential threats to the region, including to the Central Asian states; and calls upon all states in this regard to effectively implement all relevant Security Council resolutions, including those relating to counter-terrorism, and to strengthen their international and regional security cooperation to enhance information-sharing, border control, law enforcement and criminal justice to better counter the threats posed, including from returning foreign terrorist fighters.

"The Security Council takes note of the efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (established pursuant UNSCR 1373) and its Executive Directorate to assess and monitor implementation of resolutions 1373, 1624, 2178, 2396 and other relevant resolutions on terrorism by Afghanistan and countries of the region, and acknowledges recommendations provided by the Committee, including in the area of providing of technical assistance.

"The Security Council stresses the importance of advancing regional, interregional and international cooperation to achieve long-term peace, stability and sustainable development in Afghanistan and Central Asia and supports the joint efforts of countries of the region towards the enhancement of a zone of peace, cooperation and prosperity including through the different platforms for cooperation.

"The Security Council welcomes the contribution of the Central Asian countries to ensuring the stability and development of Afghanistan and the intensification of long-term cooperation, discussions and coordination among them, using various joint platforms and fora, including through regular meetings at high level.

"The Security Council reiterates the importance of increasing the full and effective participation and leadership of women in decision-making, including in national, regional, and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflict, as well as efforts to prevent and combat terrorism, and the importance of integrating gender perspectives across all discussions pertinent to sustaining peace in Afghanistan and the Central Asia region and supports commitments to the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security in the region. The Security Council stresses the need to strengthen policies and mechanisms in Afghanistan to empower women politically and economically, to increase the number of women in the security forces in an environment conducive to women's safety and development, and to mitigate violence against women by supporting the provision of services for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

"The Security Council underlines the importance of paying due attention to child protection concerns within peace and reconciliation efforts in Afghanistan and calls on all parties to take the necessary measures to do so.

"The Security Council commends the role of the UNAMA and the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), and their respective UN Secretary General Special Representatives, in the implementation of their mandates as per Resolution 2344 (2017) and Security Council documents S/2007/279 and S/2007/280, respectively and for collaborating closely to facilitate the bilateral and multilateral engagement of Central Asian States with Afghanistan.

"The Security Council welcomes the involvement of Afghanistan in the Central Asian regional mechanisms for cooperation on counter-terrorism, including in implementing the Joint Plan of Action (JPoA) for the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and expresses its

support for the roles of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism and UNRCCA in providing support to the practical realization of the JPoA and the Ashgabat Declaration of 13 June 2017.

"The Security Council underscores the importance of close coordination between Afghanistan and the Central Asian States in combating the significant increase in the cultivation, production, trade and trafficking of illicit drugs in Afghanistan, as reflected in the Afghanistan Opium Survey published by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on 15 November 2017, which continue to pose a threat to peace and stability in the region and beyond, and emphasizes the need for enhanced regional and international support of Afghanistan's National Drug Action Plan (NDAP).

"The Security Council in this regard appreciates the work of UNODC, calls upon States to strengthen international and regional cooperation to counter the threat to the international community posed by the cultivation, production, trafficking, and consumption of illicit drugs originating in Afghanistan which significantly contribute to the financial resources of the Taliban and its associates, and to act in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility in addressing the drug problem of Afghanistan, including through cooperation against the trafficking in illicit drugs and precursor chemicals, and welcomes cooperation between Afghanistan and Central Asian states and relevant regional and international organizations and initiatives.

"The Security Council commends the efforts of UNAMA and UNRCCA, in collaboration with the UNODC, and relevant regional organizations and fora, to help the Central Asian States and Afghanistan address the narcotics problem.

"The Security Council welcomes commitments to continued cooperation on border management and border security by Central Asian countries and Afghanistan, commends efforts by UN agencies to increase their capacities in this area, and encourages donor countries and regional and international organizations to intensify capacity building efforts.

"The Security Council welcomes the contribution of Central Asian States to non-proliferation, including to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia (CANWFZ), and encourages their further cooperation in preventing, detecting and responding to illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive materials.

"The Security Council welcomes efforts taken in the region to enhance dialogue and collaboration and to advance shared goals of economic development and prosperity across the region and expresses its appreciation for national, sub-regional and regional initiatives and efforts to advance policy, infrastructure, trade, financial and people-to-people connectivity in Afghanistan, Central Asia and beyond.

"The Security Council emphasizes that, in order to support Afghanistan emerging sustainably from conflict, there is a need for a comprehensive and integrated approach that incorporates and strengthens coherence between all sectors, including political, security, development, and human rights, and encourages ongoing efforts in this regard, including to strengthen the rule of law, and stresses the importance, where appropriate, of advancing a regional approach as a means to minimize conflict and enhance effectiveness and efficiency of interventions.

"The Security Council encourages relevant entities of the UN system to work towards preventing conflict and notes in this regard the importance of addressing the conflict in Afghanistan in a comprehensive manner that seeks to

use preventive diplomacy tools in support of durable peace and prosperity in Afghanistan and in the wider region.

"The Security Council notes in this regard the importance of maximizing the efficiency and efficacy of the work of the UN in Afghanistan and Central Asia, including through enhanced coordination across the UN system.

"The Security Council commends the efforts of the relevant UN agencies in promoting SDGs regionally and supports the activities of the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), which Afghanistan has joined, and the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA), as platforms for cross-border economic dialogue, and encourages intensified ownership and contribution by Central Asian States."

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
30 January 2018

Original: English

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 8170th meeting of the Security Council, held on 30 January 2018, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Peace consolidation in West Africa", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and welcomes the briefing on 11 January 2018 by the Special Representative for West Africa and the Sahel, Mohamed Ibn Chambas.

"The Security Council recalls its resolutions 2391 (2017), 2359 (2017), 2364 (2017), 2349 (2017) and 2320 (2016), as well as its presidential statements S/PRST/2017/2 and S/PRST/2017/10.

"The Security Council expresses full support to the Special Representative and looks forward to ongoing activities undertaken by UNOWAS in the areas of conflict prevention, mediation and good offices, sub-regional and regional cooperation to address root causes and cross-border and cross-cutting threats to peace and security, as well as the promotion of good governance, strengthening of institutional capacity, respect for the rule of law and human rights, humanitarian access and assistance, and gender mainstreaming, and further underlines the need for sustained support and adequate resources in this regard. The Security Council further welcomes the efforts to give renewed impetus to the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS), with a view to ensuring better coordination and efficiency of the international response to the needs of the people and communities of the Sahel region, and *calls upon* donors to mobilize their efforts and align their activities on these key priorities and objectives.

"The Security Council welcomes the positive developments in several West African countries, including continued efforts being made to carry out political, constitutional and security sector reforms to improve governance, consolidate democracy and increase peaceful participation, as well as steps being taken to promote human rights, and encourages national stakeholders, including civil society, to continue to engage in dialogue in a spirit of tolerance and inclusivity.

"The Security Council emphasizes the need for national stakeholders to work together to facilitate the timely preparation for, and holding of, peaceful, transparent and credible elections, and urges them to ensure a level playing field for all candidates and to work towards increased participation of women,



including with a view to increase the number of women appointed to senior government positions, in accordance with their respective national, regional and global commitments.

"The Security Council emphasizes the important role of women in prevention and resolution of conflicts, in peacebuilding as well as in post-conflict situations, as recognized in relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 1325 (2000) and resolution 2242 (2015).

"The Security Council welcomes the peaceful general elections held in Liberia on 10 October and the runoff presidential election on 26 December 2017, and expresses appreciation for the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Farid Zarif, and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), as well as for the efforts of the former President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, a member of the Secretary-General's High-level Advisory Board, SRSG Chambas of UNOWAS, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union. The members of the Security Council encourages continued engagement of the international community and donors to assist Liberia's continued efforts to achieve sustainable peace, including in support of the commitments made in the Liberia Peacebuilding Plan. The Security Council acknowledges the importance of maintaining international attention on Liberia after the withdrawal of UNMIL in March 2018, on the basis on its resolution 2333 (2016), as well as during the transition period to follow, and stresses the important role of the Peacebuilding Commission in this regard.

"The Security Council reiterates its concern over the situation in Guinea-Bissau, calls upon all political leaders to uphold the provisions of the Conakry Accords and to complete its implementation without further delay. The Security Council commends the continued engagement of ECOWAS in helping efforts to resolve the political impasse and expresses its readiness to consider supporting further measures it could take in this regard. The Security Council emphasizes the importance of the organisation of free and fair legislative elections in Guinea-Bissau, in accordance with its constitution.

"The Security Council notes with concern the situation in Togo and welcomes the ongoing regional efforts aimed at assisting national stakeholders to identify a way forward, through dialogue.

"The Security Council expresses its serious concern over the challenging security situation in West Africa and the Sahel, notably threats posed by asymmetric terrorist attacks, maritime piracy and transnational organized crime, including trafficking in persons, arms, drugs and natural resources, which can be interlinked.

"The Security Council expresses its concerns over the threats of terrorism, including the way terrorists use their narratives to polarize communities, mobilize resources, incite and recruit others to commit terrorist acts in the region, in some cases exploiting transnational organized crime networks. The Security Council strongly condemns all terrorist attacks carried out in the region, in particular in the Sahel, notably by JNIM, the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and Ansarul Islam, and in the Lake Chad Basin region, notably by Boko Haram and the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, and stresses the need to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including by addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, in accordance with obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law.

"The Security Council expresses particular concern about attacks on civilians, who are the primary victims of terrorist attacks in the region, and reiterates the primary responsibility of Member States to protect civilians on their territory in accordance with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, and urges them to take urgent measures to prevent human rights abuses and violations, including arbitrary arrest and detention, and ensure that persons deprived of liberty are treated in accordance with international law and that those responsible for violations and abuses of human rights are held accountable, to enhance capacity and responsiveness of national human rights mechanisms across the region, to take adequate measures to support and reintegrate Boko Haram abductees, particularly children, and to take measures to increase the number of women in the security sector and national bodies dealing with the crisis.

"The Security Council welcomes the leadership demonstrated by countries in West Africa and the Sahel in spearheading initiatives to address security challenges in the region and commends the efforts of the African Union and ECOWAS, as well as of Member States of West Africa and the Sahel, to strengthen border security and regional cooperation, as well as to address the impact of terrorism and transnational organized crime, including through the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) and the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel (FC-G5S), and reaffirms that Member States must ensure that any measures taken to counter terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law.

"The Security Council welcomes ongoing efforts by relevant partners to support, through voluntary contributions, technical assistance and advice, G5 Sahel States' efforts in the establishment and implementation of a robust compliance framework by the G5 Sahel States and FC-G5S to prevent, investigate, address and publicly report violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law related to the FC-G5S. The Security Council further recognizes the important role of UNOWAS in providing technical assistance to the Permanent Secretariat of the G5 Sahel, and encourages enhanced cooperation and information sharing.

"The Security Council reaffirms its condemnation in the strongest terms of all instances of trafficking in persons, including for the purpose of forced labour and slavery, in areas affected by armed conflict, which undermine the rule of law, contribute to other forms of transnational organized crime and may exacerbate conflict, insecurity and instability and undermine development. The Security Council reiterates the need to ensure organization and coherence in the efforts of the United Nations System to address trafficking in persons in areas affected by armed conflict or in post-conflict situations, and further recognizes the need to continue to work towards an enhanced, comprehensive and coordinated approach. The Security Council encourages further cooperation between the EU, AU and UN, in particular within the joint Task Force, aimed at saving and protecting lives of migrants and refugees along routes, and in particular inside Libya.

"The Security Council recognizes the importance of complementing the security response to the Sahel crisis with a comprehensive and coordinated approach to address root causes of crises, prevent further tensions and violence, tackle exclusion and poverty, strengthen resilience of institutions and communities, promote good governance and build peaceful, just and inclusive societies, and, in this regard, looks forward to receiving further details on recent

efforts towards recalibrating the UNISS and enhance its implementation through a more integrated, cross-pillar approach across the development-humanitarian-peace nexus. The Security Council further emphasizes the importance of the convening role of the Peacebuilding Commission in sustaining peace and peacebuilding efforts, and, in collaboration with UNOWAS, in mobilizing deeper commitment and partnership between the UN system, the countries of the Sahel and other regional and international partners, including International Financial Institutions.

"The Security Council welcomes efforts of the Governments in the Lake Chad Basin Region and regional and sub-regional organisations to prevent further deterioration of the humanitarian crisis, while recognizing the need for enhanced national efforts to address the vast humanitarian needs. The Security Council commends international donors for exceeding the expectations of the Oslo Humanitarian Conference for Nigeria and the Lake Chad Region in February 2017, calls for the disbursement of outstanding funds pledged, and urges all actors to continue their efforts and to ensure close coordination, including between development and humanitarian actors, in particular to enhance protection, early recovery, nutrition and food security, improve living conditions and increase livelihood opportunities.

"The Security Council recognises the adverse effects of climate change and ecological changes among other factors on the stability of West Africa and the Sahel region, including through drought, desertification, land degradation and food insecurity, and emphasizes the need for adequate risk assessments and risk management strategies by governments and the United Nations relating to these factors.

"The Security Council recognizes the efforts of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and welcomes the holding of a first regional stabilization conference in the Lake Chad Basin region, as well as the regional initiative spearheaded by President Buhari of Nigeria to revitalize the ecosystem of the Lake Chad Basin to support sustainable livelihoods, security as well as development in the region.

"The Security Council commends the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission for its continuing efforts toward a conclusive demarcation of the border between the two countries, against a backdrop of heightened regional insecurity, and encourages renewed efforts to construct and emplace pillars along the land boundary.

"The Security Council expresses concern over the overall humanitarian situation in the region, characterized by the impact of armed conflict and terrorism, extreme poverty, food insecurity, forced displacement, adverse effects of climate change and epidemics, which contribute to the high levels of structural, chronic and acute vulnerability in the region and continue to affect populations, and call for significant humanitarian and development action.

"The Security Council recalls that the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons continue to pose threats to international peace and security, cause significant loss of lives and contribute to instability and security in many regions, including in West Africa and the Sahel, and, in this regard, encourages UNOWAS to consider work that could contribute to countering this threat and calls for sustainable assistance by international and bilateral donors.

"The Security Council encourages further cooperation, mutual prioritization and clear division of tasks between UNOWAS and UNOCA, with

a view to strengthening regional and sub-regional organizations to address cross-border threats, and commends the engagement and assistance of UNOWAS to subregional and regional organizations in order to promote peace and stability in West Africa and the Sahel, including efforts of the ECOWAS Commission to implement its Regional Framework for Security Sector Reform (SSR) and Governance and to promote a coordinated SSR approach in the region.

"The Security Council recognizes the role of UNOWAS in contributing to periodic strategic and integrated analysis of the opportunities, risks and challenges in support of efforts by national and local actors to sustain peace, looks forward to efforts to enhance ongoing activities undertaken by UNOWAS in the area of conflict prevention, including the development of comprehensive early warning analyses and rapid response mechanisms, and in this regard further welcomes the efforts made to enhance subregional capacities to cooperate on conflict prevention, in particular the joint AU, ECCAS and ECOWAS cooperation on early warning systems.

"The Security Council expresses its intention to periodically monitor progress made, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide information on UNOWAS efforts with respect to aspects highlighted in this statement, and reiterates its call for an assessment of the implementation of its resolution 2349 to be integrated into regular reporting by UNOWAS, paying specific attention to this issue in the upcoming regular report due in July 2018."

unsustainable. The Security Council reiterates its support for the DDPD as a viable framework for the peace process in Darfur. The Council, while urging its accelerated implementation, particularly the implementation of the Land Act and provisions related to compensation and the creation of a conducive environment enabling the return of IDPs and refugees, demands that the non-signatory armed movements refrain from impeding the implementation of the DDPD and encourages UNAMID and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) to continue to engage fully in support of the implementation of the DDPD. The Security Council also welcomes the signing of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel (AU-HIP) Roadmap by the Government of Sudan and the armed movements and urges all parties to make immediate progress on the implementation of the Roadmap, including the signing of cessation of hostilities and humanitarian assistance agreements among the parties consistent with the first phase of the Roadmap, and further urges the non-signatory armed groups to sign it without delay.

"The Security Council recalls that it authorised in its resolution 2363 (2017) a two-phase reconfiguration of UNAMID in line with the Special Report of the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission of 18 May 2017 (S/2017/437), and commends UNAMID for the successful conclusion of phase one of the Mission's reconfiguration, in cooperation with the Government of Sudan. The Security Council while taking note that no adverse effects have been reported so far, recognises that it is still too early to reach conclusions on the full impact of UNAMID's reconfiguration. The Council notes the assessment's findings that the closure of team sites has created a gap in early warning systems designed to prevent human rights violations and abuses, has affected UNAMID's capacity-building work, and has limited UNAMID's capacity to verify allegations of human rights violations and abuses. The Security Council therefore requests UNAMID and the UNCT to continue to monitor closely the impact of the reconfiguration on the situation on the ground, including the effect on UNAMID's dialogue with parties to conflict, early warning capacity, human rights monitoring and reporting, and rule of law development and to report any adverse effects to the Security Council in a timely manner. The Security Council underscores the importance of building credible institutions and good governance, including through enhancing the capacity of the state authorities and other local actors to effectively protect civilians. The Security Council also stresses the importance of fully addressing the root causes of the conflict, including management of land, water and other resources, in the search for a sustainable peace, which should rapidly deliver real benefits for the people of Darfur. It further emphasises the importance of integrating a gender perspective, into all transition planning.

"The Security Council calls on donors, the regional authorities in Darfur and the Government of Sudan to provide the financial resources necessary to reach those in need. The Council stresses that funding for consolidation of peacebuilding efforts in Darfur should be treated by Member States of the United Nations as a political issue of high priority to protect investments in peace and to avoid a relapse into conflict. The Council, while stressing the importance of adequate resourcing for the UNCT, welcomes that UNAMID and the UNCT are in the process of developing a joint fundraising strategy for the implementation of the Integrated Strategic Framework (2017-2019) that identifies common priorities for sustainable peace in Darfur. The Council also urges the Government of Sudan and the local authorities to ensure there is an environment conducive to the provision of such activities, including improving access for development actors.

"The Security Council welcomes the Government of Sudan's written consent on 8 January to the opening of a temporary UNAMID base in Golo, Jebel Marra, to support life-saving humanitarian efforts and protection of civilians. The Security Council, however, regrets that the late consent of the Government of Sudan has caused delays in the implementation of the timetable for the opening of this base as it was outlined in the Special Report of the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission of 18 May 2017 (S/2017/437) and supported by its resolution 2363 (2017). The Council welcomes the Memorandum of Understanding signed between UNAMID and the Government of Sudan on the opening of a temporary operating base in Golo and the transfer of the required land and calls upon the Government of Sudan to build upon its expressed consent, the MoU and this land transfer to provide cooperation to ensure there are no further delays to UNAMID establishing and operationalising this base.

"The Security Council notes the finding in the assessment report that the weapons-collection programme launched by the Government is reportedly creating conditions to further improve the security in Darfur beyond the state capitals and stresses the importance of the Government of Sudan's coordination with UNAMID and IDP representatives on this programme; welcomes the establishment of a tripartite committee for the collection of weapons inside Kalma camp; and strongly encourages them to expand cooperation as they proceed with the weapons collection throughout Darfur. It also emphasises the necessity to accompany the weapons-collection campaign with comprehensive disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) and with full adherence to international human rights and humanitarian law and with full attention to the needs of women and children.

"As UNAMID approaches phase two (31 January–30 June 2018) of its reconfiguration, the Security Council supports the recommendation in the assessment report that due to the security situation in Kalma camp and the resulting operational requirements, some adjustments in the reconfiguration for phase two will be made to enable continued military presence at Kalma camp until the end of phase two and the handover of Kalma to UNAMID Formed Police Units (FPU) will be conducted by the end of phase two of the reconfiguration. The Security Council requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide updates in his regular 60-day reports on the situation in Kalma camp, and on overall developments in humanitarian access, human rights situation, and rule of law.

"The Security Council further supports the recommendation by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General to conduct a review before the renewal of the UNAMID Mandate in June 2018 to consider a new mission concept with adjusted priorities. The Council requests a written report of this review to be provided by 1 June 2018, and further requests it to include: an evaluation of the progress in implementing phase two, in particular the impact of this phase in the areas of UNAMID military handover to FPUs; an update on the situation in the areas from which UNAMID withdrew during phase one, including on protection needs and human rights violations and abuses; the Government of Sudan's cooperation with UNAMID, including on the establishment and operationalisation of the temporary operating base in Golo; UNAMID's freedom of movement; and consideration of a new mission concept with adjusted priorities which is reflective of recent trends and the situation on the ground. It should also provide an assessment of UNAMID's fulfilment of its mandate and strategic priorities as set out in its resolution 2363 (2017), as well as an evaluation of the progress made in addressing the root causes of the conflict."